

**TOWN OF DAVIE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2007
ROBBINS LODGE, MAIN HOUSE
4005 HIATUS ROAD, DAVIE, FLORIDA
MEMBERS PRESENT**

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Joyce Steward, Chairperson
Linda Greck
Casey Lee
Christina Pellicane
Michael Mersack
Janice Carey
Donald Burgess
Frances Steier

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Greenbaum
Toni Webb

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Tim Lee, Town of Davie
Kathy Cox, South Florida Trail Riders of Broward Trustee
Phillip Holste, Town of Davie
Manny Diaz, Town of Davie, Public Works
Kristi Essig, Resident
Michele McBride, Resident
Brett McBride, Resident

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Steward called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee members provided corrections to the May 23, 2007 minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Dr. Pellicane, to accept the minutes from May 23, 2007 as amended. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Committee members provided corrections to the July 11, 2007 minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Dr. Pellicane, to accept the minutes from July 11, 2007 as amended. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Recognize new OSAC member Janice Carey

Chair Steward welcomed new Committee member, Janice Carey. Ms. Carey introduced herself and spoke of her background and qualifications.

3.2 Update on Maintenance Contracts

Chair Steward welcomed Manny ~~Diaz~~ Diez, the Town's new director of Public Works. Mr. Diaz introduced himself and spoke of his efforts to re-package the Public Works department after recent budget cuts. He reported the Town ~~lost~~ reduced almost \$1 million from the Public Works budget. He explained that many contracts will be expiring and staff is discussing which to re-bid or re-negotiate. Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez stated the Department will not lay off employees, but will self perform 40% of landscape maintenance and janitorial work currently being done by contractors.

Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez spoke of his background and work with Lauderdale Lakes and Palm Beach County. He stated there are about 70 employees in Public Works. Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez said there is a need to prioritize what the Committee feels is important to the look of the Town.

Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez commented that as a whole the department is not well documented. Therefore, his staff will be creating a "Level of Service" document to include a list of assets and levels of service for assets, ranging from air conditioners to grass and trails. These will help keep track of the scope of Davie's open space program. Once this is complete, a work schedule will be prepared. He advised that due to the recent budget cuts, the level of service will go down; however how the reduction of service is dealt with will be important. He stated that he and the Town Council appreciated direction from OSAC.

Chair Steward asked if the Committee can help in any way. In response, Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez stated that OSAC can help through cooperation and active dialog with the Council.

Ms. Greck asked how big the budget cut is. In response, Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez stated the cut is about 12 percent. Ms. Greck asked if there is any discussion about open space as a separate item. In response, Mr. ~~Diaz~~ Diez explained that the open space elements will fit into the overall scheme. Also, staff will establish numerical levels of service for different items.

Ms. Lee commented on the poor fertilizing of Davie's entrance corridors and asked if the comprehensive public works plan included replanting. In response, Mr. Diaz stated that staff will preserve accounts that had to do with materials. Also, if staff stepped up to perform the landscaping and maintenance work, there will likely be money left over to replace landscaping. Mr. Diaz added that quality control will be stepped up to check on outside contractors doing work in the Town. He stressed that the Department still needs the eyes and ears of residents and OSAC members to address issues of poor maintenance and contractor performance.

Ms. Lee asked whether Public Works and other departments will intermingle to accomplish these goals. In response, Mr. Diaz stated that cooperation among the departments will be encouraged.

3.3 Review of Park Improvement Criteria Proposal

Committee members referred to documents outlining criteria for park improvements.

Ms. Greck wanted to submit one document instead of two. Discussion ensued about merging the two documents and moving line items to better represent dollars being spent.

Dr. Pellicane wanted to consider grant funding for every improvement and not only existing parks. It was stated the Committee does not want to limit the dollars to improve existing parks but also bond acquired sites.

Ms. Greck commented that items 3, 4, and 5 could be grouped together as criteria that might give a project more or less desirability.

Mr. Burgess suggested itemizing numbers 3, 4, 5 and 7 after "Guidelines Proposed" section. Under "Existing Parks and Allocations" language was revised as follows: "Are there ~~are~~ sufficient funds to provide public use of the site as intended?"

Discussion ensued regarding open space acquisition and the improvement of existing parks. Chair Steward distributed documents indicating how the Town's Open Space Bond funds would be allocated. The Committee agreed that dollars should be reserved for improvements without stipulating certain percentages.

Ms. Greck commented that the purpose of acquisition is to enjoy and use the sites purchased. She felt a certain amount be set aside in the criteria as a recommendation to meet the specific objectives for a given site.

Mr. Holste referred to documentation on the capital improvements budget indicating certain unfunded parks that needed improvements.

Chair Steward asked if the Committee wished to include a requirement to spend a certain percentage of each District's money on other sites. It was decided that language would be corrected as follows: "No more than 10% of bond funds allocated to each District should be used for active recreation and/or for new or additional use." The Committee discussed the possibility of pursuing corporate sponsors in light of the recent budget cuts.

Kathy Cox advised that Tim Lee can e-mail the revised document to the Committee for input; members can respond to Tim but cannot e-mail each other. It was determined that once the revision was reviewed, the Committee would move this along to the Town Council as quickly as possible without waiting for the next regular meeting.

Further revisions were made to the criteria document.

3.4 Status of Raising Impact Fee for Parks and Open Space

Mr. Lee stated that this study was a long, slow process that could continue for a year.

3.5 Update on Grant Extension for Flamingo Road Equestrian Trail – Tim Lee

Mr. Lee summarized an email he received from Parks and Recreation Director, Dennis Andresky, stating that the request for a third one-year extension to complete this project was denied. The Town had been awarded a federally funded greenway and trails grant of \$100,000, and \$10,000 of this had been spent on survey work. The letter further indicated the Town will re-apply for a grant to complete the trail.

Mr. Holste stated letters had gone out to property owners along the trail from 14th to 26th Street about removal of fences. He recalled that \$75,000 had been budgeted for this project. It was suggested that Councilmember Crowley be approached, in his capacity as Central Broward's director, for help with stabilizing the area.

It was requested that Ms. Greck contact Councilmember Crowley about this.

3.6 Update on Recreational Bridges along Orange Drive – Tim Lee

Mr. Lee advised that the bridges were in the structural design phase, after which they would be sent out for bids. Following Council's approval, construction would begin within 3-6 months.

3.7 Update on Status of Bond Properties – Phillip Holste

Mr. Holste advised of the following updates regarding estimated expenditure of bond funds:

- In District 1, the Town closed on the Sunny Lake expansion property the previous Wednesday.
- In District 2, the Town closed on the property located next to the Old Davie School on June 13.
- In District 3, the Town was negotiating to buy the Devine property.

Ms. Greck reported that she had spent considerable time with Councilmember Starkey who wanted the Committee to address the following District 3 improvements:

- Shifting Peaceful Ridge Trail, located on SW 121 Street, to the west side of the canal bank
- Completing the section of trail connecting Hiatus Road south of State Road 84 to Nob Hill Road
- Improving the portion of ~~Oak Ridge~~ Old Bridge Run trail from 26 Street to the FPL lines
- Creating trail crossings across Flamingo Road ~~at Griffin Road or near~~ near Orange Drive; at 26th Street and Flamingo Road; and at 14th and Flamingo Road
- Improving two small parcels donated by FDOT at 26th Street and Flamingo Road with more organized plantings and possibly a picnic bench, bike rack and a gazebo.
- Widening the connection on the west side of the Robbins property where the trail ~~ends~~ connects to Orange Drive.
- Considering using a portion of the ~~Wheatley~~ Weekly parcel to enhance trail usage.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Kristi Essig and Michele McBride, residents of the Town, addressed the Committee regarding hazardous Australian pine trees on the trail behind their homes. Ms. Essig read aloud her letter to the Town regarding the \$50,000 she and her husband had spent cleaning up the mess from these trees after Hurricane Wilma. She requested that the Stonebrook developer uphold the Town's original master plan that stipulated cleaning up decaying trees and planting the trail appropriately.

Ms. McBride asked for clarification on the Town's preservation program for the Australian pine trees. In response, Mr. Lee said the Town's policy is to mark hazardous trees and ask property owners to remove them. He added that Australian pines were removed during development of projects.

Ms. Lee stated it was a County Code and Town Code that Australian pines be removed. She recommended going to Planning and Zoning to review this entire site plan. She stressed that all amenities in the site plan should be implemented by the developer.

Ms. Cox spoke about the history of the Australian pines in this area. She agreed they should be looked at again as there may be more stress on these trees in the future.

Ms. Lee encouraged the implementation of the master plan for this area. She encouraged the residents to pull the minutes of the Town Council meeting where this plan was approved.

Motion by Ms. Lee, seconded by Ms. Greck, to recommend that Mr. Lee speak with his superiors to ensure implementation of the master plan when the builder reached 75%, and to recommend that all COs be halted until this work is done.

In a voice vote, all voted unanimously in favor. (Motion passed 9-0)

4.1 Discussion on Dog Park Recommendations

Chair Steward distributed a diagram of Betty Booth Roberts Park with potential space for a dog park.

Mr. Holste advised that \$675,000 was originally set aside from last year's capital budget for a dog park. This money would come from the Open Space Bond. However, no decision has been made on the specific location as Council had not taken action on a specific resolution. Conversation ensued as to the original projected cost for the dog

park. Mr. Holste said the question remained as to how much of each District's bond funds should be allocated for this purpose.

Ms. Carey suggested that each District split the cost equally if this will be the only dog park in Davie.

Chair Steward did not agree and felt the proposed location will be supported primarily by District 1 residents.

Ms. Greck suggested identifying sites in other Districts that might be appropriate for a dog park.

Motion by Ms Greck, seconded by Mr. Burgess, to recommend that funding for a dog park within the Town, from the bond, come from the District where the site exists, including acquisition or improvements.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor, with Ms. Lee opposed. (Motion passed 8-1)

Motion by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Ms. Greck, to support the development of a dog park at Betty Booth Roberts Park utilizing bond funds from District 1.

In a voice vote, all voted unanimously in favor. (Motion passed 9-0)

Motion by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Mr. Mersack, to consider using bond funds from District 3 for creation of a dog park at the SW 14th Street and Flamingo Road site.

Ms. Greck commented that there has not been much community input on having a dog park at this site.

By show of hands, there were 4 votes in favor and 4 votes opposed. (Motion failed)

The Committee decided to place this item on the next meeting's Agenda for further discussion.

4.2 Rank United Church of Christ property for bond purchase, folio # 504119010112, located near NE corner of Hiatus Road and Orange Drive

Mr. Holste provided a brief background on the history of this property. The Committee proceeded with reviewing the criteria met by this property. Parcel scored 12 out of a possible 39 points.

4.3 Discuss Open Space designation used by Planning and Zoning

Mr. Lee read aloud portions of a memorandum sent to the Town Administrator from one of the planners, proposing that processes be implemented to secure open space designations for sites without a designation of recreation or open space. The memorandum requested that all land use plan amendments submitted to the Town should have an affirmative vote of 4 members of the Town Council; also, once all Town owned parks are designated as recreation or open space, their status should be preserved by requiring a supermajority vote for any proposed land use change. Mr. Lee stated that the Town Administrator had not yet responded to this proposal.

Ms. Greck commented that it was imperative to identify certain properties within the Town's boundaries for conservation and protection.

Chair Steward wanted to push for conservation easements. Ms. Greck suggested that more thought be given to restricting development on a property under this zoning. Mr. Burgess said that changing the land use limited the development rights on a site.

Dr. Pellicane suggested that the Committee pick out some parcels it did not want to lose and start from there. It was decided that this will be placed on the next meeting's Agenda. The Committee requested a copy of the planner's memorandum to the Town Administrator.

5. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

6. Comments and/or Suggestions

Chair Steward asked how recycling would be done in the parks. Mr. Lee suggested Susan Dean may coordinate this.

7. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Chairperson

Committee Member